

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number : 05-136500

(43) Date of publication of application : 01.06.1993

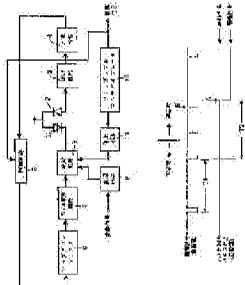
(51) Int. Cl.

H01S 3/096

(21) Application number : 03-299033 (71) Applicant : BROTHER IND LTD

(22) Date of filing : 14.11.1991 (72) Inventor : OHASHI TSUTOMU

(54) SEMICONDUCTOR LASER DRIVE CIRCUIT



(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prevent a semiconductor laser from deteriorating or breaking when a control signal is not inputted, by providing a protective circuit for stopping the current drive of the semiconductor laser when control signal is not inputted.

CONSTITUTION: Since an input signal is not inputted to a re-triggerable multivibrator 10 when a control signal is not inputted due to occurrence of a fault, the output pulse is not outputted after a time period of a pulse width T2 set by the control signal inputted lastly. Since the pulse width T2 is a little longer than a period T1 of control signal the timing (A point) when the output pulse is not outputted is a little later than the timing when the next control signal inputted lastly is to be inputted. Then, since a stop circuit 11 turns off the power of a drive circuit 9 when the output pulse is not outputted, the drive of a semiconductor laser 1 is stopped. This timing is only a little later than the timing (B point) to be controlled originally, and a delay of the timing when the drive stops does not occur.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination] 13.10.1998

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection] 27.06.2000

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The semiconductor laser actuation circuit which will be characterized by having the protection network which suspends current actuation of semiconductor laser in the semiconductor laser actuation circuit which has semiconductor laser, the actuation circuit which carries out current actuation of this semiconductor laser according to a modulating signal, and the control circuit which performs control action which stabilizes the optical output of semiconductor laser with the control signal inputted more nearly periodically than the exterior if this control signal is no longer inputted.

[Claim 2] A protection network according to claim 1 is a semiconductor laser actuation circuit characterized by consisting of halt circuits which suspend current actuation of semiconductor laser when this output pulse is lost, the retriggerable multivibrator circuit where it operated with the control signal and output pulse width of face was set up somewhat longer than the period of a control signal, and.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
 2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.
-

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] This invention relates to the semiconductor laser actuation circuit which can prevent destruction and degradation of semiconductor laser in a detail further about a semiconductor laser actuation circuit.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Semiconductor laser has the property that the actuation current-optical output property changes with temperature a lot as it is shown in drawing 2 , as everyone knows. Moreover, this property varies also by each semiconductor laser. For this reason, when carrying out modulation actuation of the semiconductor laser, the control signal was periodically published in the intervals of that modulation actuation, and control action which the monitor of the optical output of semiconductor laser is carried out, and an actuation current is changed, and keeps an optical output constant was performed.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Semiconductor laser also has the property of resulting in destruction or degradation very weakly to an excessive output. For this reason, since above-mentioned control

action was not performed unless a control signal is inputted according to some failures (for example, an open circuit and a connector shifting overrun of a controller etc.), when actuation was continued as it was, semiconductor laser deteriorated, and when the worst, there was a possibility of resulting in destruction.

[0004]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In the semiconductor laser actuation circuit of this invention, in order to solve an above-mentioned trouble, if a control signal is no longer inputted, it has the protection network which suspends current actuation of semiconductor laser.

[0005] A protection network operates with the control signal inputted more nearly periodically than the exterior, and the retriggerable multivibrator circuit where output pulse width of face was set up somewhat longer than the period of a control signal, and when this output pulse is lost, it consists of a halt circuit which suspends current actuation of semiconductor laser.

[0006]

[Function] According to this invention which has an above-mentioned configuration, if the control signal is inputted normally, the trigger of the retriggerable multivibrator will be carried out by the control signal, and it will output an output pulse. Since the output pulse width of face is somewhat longer than the period of a control signal, to the timing into which the following control signal is inputted, the output pulse is still outputted. For this reason, retrigger of the retriggerable multivibrator is carried out, and an output pulse is continued and outputted. For this reason, a halt circuit does not suspend current actuation of semiconductor laser.

[0007] Moreover, if a control signal is no longer inputted according to a certain failure, since, as for a retriggerable multivibrator, an input signal will be lost, an output pulse is lost with the set-up pulse width. the next control signal of the control signal inputted at the end inputs that this output pulse is lost -- having -- it is the timing which was late for the timing of ** for a while.

[0008] If an output pulse is lost, a halt circuit will suspend current actuation of semiconductor laser. This timing is not only late for the timing to which control action is originally performed for a while, and the optical output of the semiconductor laser at this time does not necessarily have the late timing which is almost the same as a desired value, and is stopped.

[0009] For this reason, even if a control signal is no longer inputted, semiconductor laser does not have a possibility of deteriorating or

destroying.

[0010]

[Example] Hereafter, one example which materialized this invention is explained with reference to a drawing.

[0011] What drawing 1 shows is drawing showing the outline of the configuration of the semiconductor laser actuation circuit which is one example of this invention.

[0012] Namely, the semiconductor laser 1 which outputs a laser beam and monitor diode 2 which generates the photocurrent which was usually stored in the same container as semiconductor laser 1, received this a part of laser beam, and is proportional to the optical reinforcement of a laser beam, The amplifying circuit 3 which changes and amplifies this photocurrent on an electrical potential difference, and outputs a signal on the strength [optical], The comparison circuit 4 which carries out the comparison test of whether the magnitude of this signal on the strength [optical] is larger than predetermined reference voltage, The control circuit 5 which actuation is started by the below-mentioned control signal, and will generate a down pulse based on the comparison result of this comparison circuit 4 if a signal on the strength [optical] is smaller than reference voltage and it is large in an up pulse, The updown counter 6 which counts according to an up pulse and a down pulse, The D/A conversion circuit 7 which changes the counted value of this updown counter 6 into analog voltage, and is outputted as control voltage, The modulation circuit 8 which outputs the PWM signal (Pulse Width Modulation) of pulse width which corresponds with the modulating signal inputted from the exterior, The actuation circuit 9 which carries out current actuation of the semiconductor laser 1 with the current corresponding to control voltage according to the timing of this PWM signal, The retriggerable multivibrator 10 (henceforth multi 10) which a control signal is inputted and outputs the output pulse of the pulse width T2 somewhat longer than the period T1 of a control signal, When there is no output pulse of multi 10, it consists of halt circuits 11 which suspend current actuation of semiconductor laser 1.

[0013] Multi 10 is constituted, well-known TTLIC123, for example, 74LS, the halt circuit 11 is a circuit which is illustrated to drawing 3 , and follows an input signal, and turns on / turns off the power source of the actuation circuit 9.

[0014] Next, with reference to drawing 1 thru/or drawing 4 , actuation of the semiconductor laser actuation circuit of this example is explained.

[0015] First, actuation of forward always is explained.

[0016] A control signal is inputted with a predetermined period from the exterior. Control action is performed in the intervals of original modulation actuation, and a control signal is inputted to the timing which does not have effect in modulation actuation.

[0017] The control signal is inputted into the control circuit 5 and multi 10 of this circuit. Although multi 10 outputs an output pulse with a control signal, since the output pulse width of face T2 is somewhat longer than the period T1 of a control signal, to the timing into which the following control signal is inputted, the output pulse is still outputted, retrigger of the multi 10 is carried out, and an output pulse is continued and outputted. Since this actuation is always [forward] performed continuously, the output pulse of multi 10 is outputted continuously. For this reason, since the halt circuit 11 continues supplying a power source to the actuation circuit 9, actuation of semiconductor laser 1 does not stop.

[0018] The control signal is inputted also into the control circuit 5, and if a control signal is inputted, a control circuit 5 will perform control action described below, and will control the optical reinforcement of semiconductor laser 1.

[0019] That is, a modulation circuit 8 suspends the actuation which generates an PWM signal, and it generates a modulating signal so that semiconductor laser may always light up. The actuation circuit 9 drives semiconductor laser 1 with the current corresponding to the analog voltage which the D/A conversion circuit 7 outputs. Semiconductor laser 1 generates a laser beam by the optical reinforcement corresponding to this current.

[0020] A part of generated laser beam is received by the monitor diode 2, the voltage of the photocurrent to generate is amplified by the amplifying circuit 3, it is outputted as a signal on the strength [optical], and, as for this signal on the strength [optical], the comparison test of the size with reference voltage is carried out by the comparison circuit 4.

[0021] The comparison result is outputted to a control circuit 5, and if the signal on the strength [optical] of a control circuit 5 is smaller than reference voltage and it is large in an up pulse, it will output a down pulse to an updown counter 6.

[0022] An updown counter 6 updates counted value according to an up pulse and a down pulse. The counted value of an updown counter 6 is changed into analog voltage by the D/A conversion circuit 7, and is outputted to the actuation circuit 9 as control voltage.

[0023] Consequently, the reinforcement of the laser beam which

semiconductor laser 1 generates is controlled by the optical predetermined reinforcement equivalent to the reference voltage of a comparison circuit 4.

[0024] Next, failures, such as a gap and an open circuit, occur and a connector explains actuation in case a control signal is no longer inputted.

[0025] Since the timing chart of a signal related to drawing 4 was shown, it explains using this.

[0026] In this case, since an input signal is lost, the multi 10 of an output pulse is lost with the pulse width T2 set up from the control signal inputted at the end. Since this pulse width T2 is pulse width somewhat longer than the period T1 of a control signal, that an output pulse is lost is the timing which was late for the timing into which the next control signal of the control signal inputted at the end should be inputted for a while (A point of drawing 4).

[0027] Since the halt circuit 11 turns off the power source of the actuation circuit 9 if an output pulse is lost, semiconductor laser 1 has the actuation suspended. This timing does not necessarily have the late timing which is only late for the timing (B point of drawing 4) to which control action is originally performed for a while, and is stopped.

[0028] For this reason, even if a control signal is no longer inputted, semiconductor laser 1 deteriorates or does not break.

[0029] This invention is not limited to the example explained in full detail above, and various deformation and amelioration are possible for it. For example, although the halt circuit was considered as the configuration which turns on / turns off the power source of the actuation circuit of semiconductor laser in this example, the function to suspend actuation may be included in the actuation circuit itself, and the function of a halt circuit may be made to have. Moreover, as for a retriggerable multivibrator circuit, it is needless to say that a capacitor, not only the thing using the charge and discharge of resistance but a clock circuit, and the counter circuit in which presetting/reset is possible may constitute.

[0030]

[Effect of the Invention] Since it was made to suspend actuation of semiconductor laser by the halt circuit when the input of a control signal was supervised by retriggerable multi like [it is ***** and] from having explained above in the semiconductor laser actuation circuit of this invention and the control signal was no longer inputted, when a control signal is not inputted, the semiconductor laser actuation

circuit which semiconductor laser does not deteriorate and destroy can be offered.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is drawing showing the configuration of the semiconductor laser actuation circuit of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing the property of semiconductor laser.

[Drawing 3] It is the circuit diagram showing the configuration of a halt circuit.

[Drawing 4] It is the timing chart which shows the relation of the output pulse of a control signal and a retriggerable multivibrator.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Semiconductor Laser
- 2 Monitor Diode
- 3 Amplifying Circuit
- 4 Comparison Circuit
- 5 Control Circuit
- 6 Updown Counter
- 7 D/A Conversion Circuit
- 8 Modulation Circuit
- 9 Actuation Circuit
- 10 retriggerable multivibrator
- Eleven halt circuits

[Translation done.]

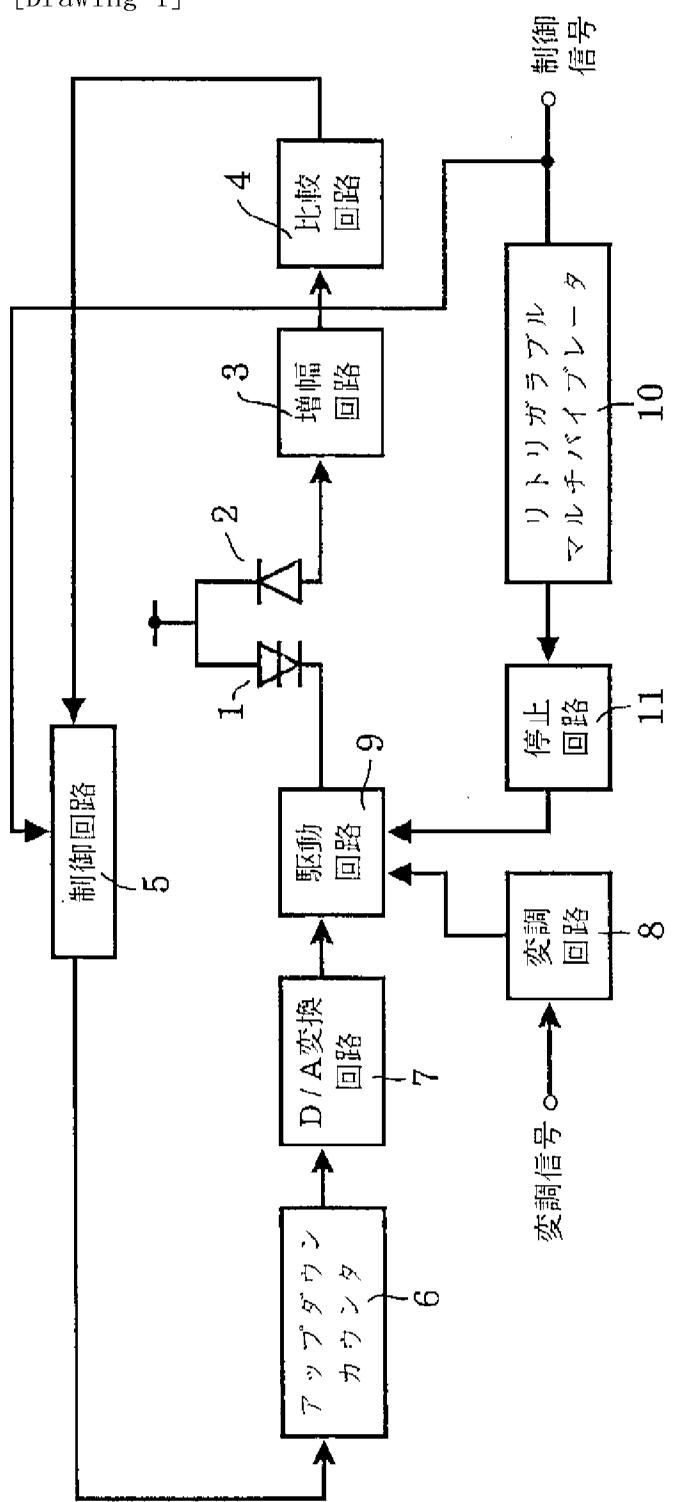
* NOTICES *

JPO and NCIPI are not responsible for any
damages caused by the use of this translation.

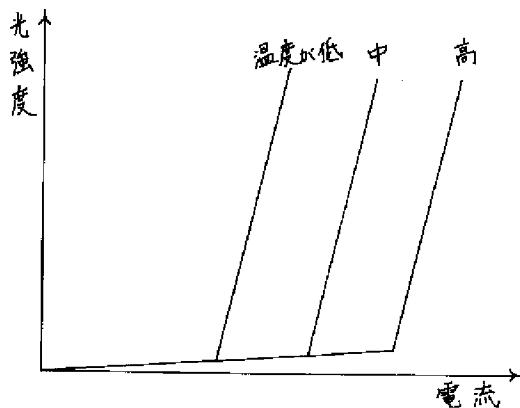
1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
2. **** shows the word which can not be translated.
3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DRAWINGS

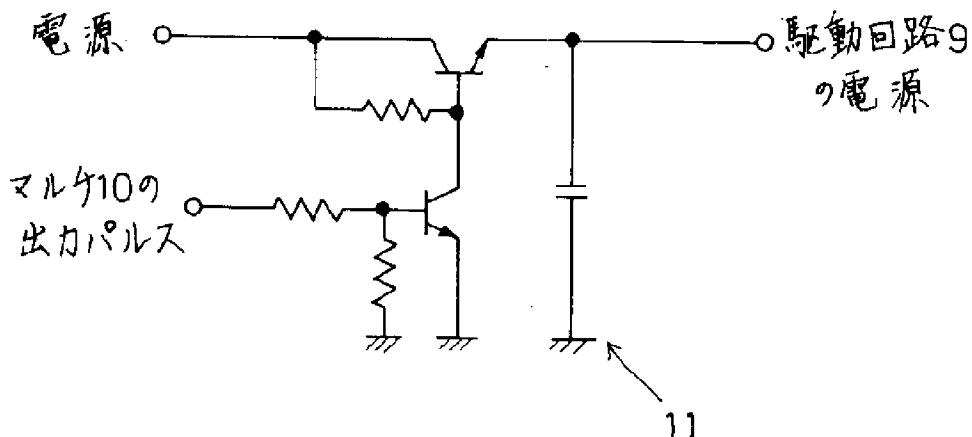
[Drawing 1]



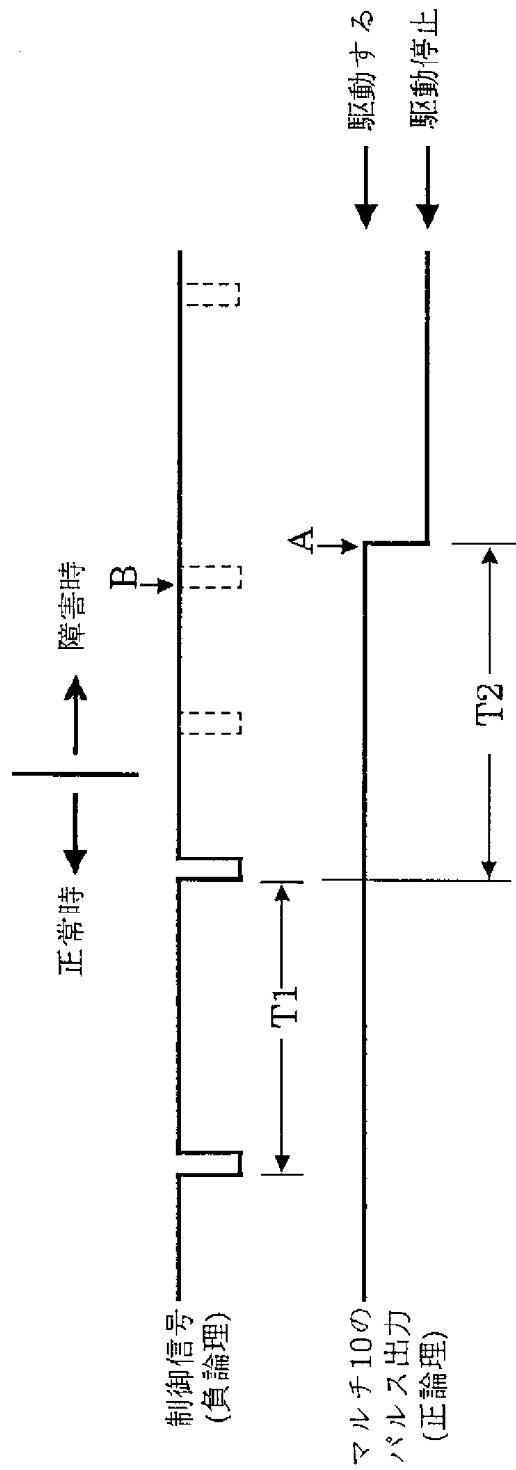
[Drawing 2]



[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 4]



[Translation done.]

(19) 日本国特許庁 (JP)

(12) 公開特許公報 (A)

(11) 特許出願公開番号

特開平5-136500

(43) 公開日 平成5年(1993)6月1日

(51) Int.Cl.⁵

識別記号

府内整理番号

F I

技術表示箇所

H 01 S 3/096

7131-4M

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数2(全6頁)

(21) 出願番号 特願平3-299033

(22) 出願日 平成3年(1991)11月14日

(71) 出願人 000005267

プラザー工業株式会社

愛知県名古屋市瑞穂区苗代町15番1号

(72) 発明者 大橋 勉

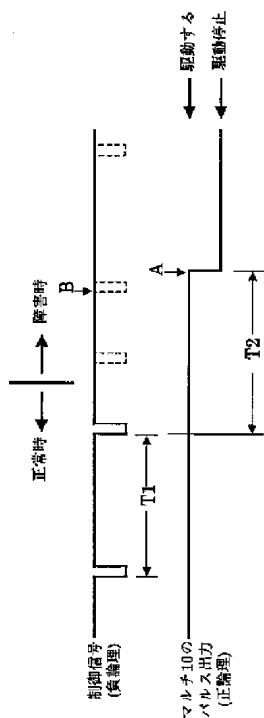
名古屋市瑞穂区苗代町15番1号プラザー工業株式会社内

(54) 【発明の名称】 半導体レーザ駆動回路

(57) 【要約】

【目的】 制御信号が入力されない場合でも半導体レーザの劣化、破壊を防ぐ。

【構成】 外部より周期的に入力される制御信号により動作し、出力パルス幅が制御信号の周期より少し長く設定されたりトリガラブルマルチバイブレータと、出力パルスがなくなったときは半導体レーザの電流駆動を停止するようにした停止回路とから構成される。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 半導体レーザと、該半導体レーザを変調信号に従って電流駆動する駆動回路と、外部より周期的に入力される制御信号により半導体レーザの光出力を安定化する制御動作を行なう制御回路とを有する半導体レーザ駆動回路において、
該制御信号が入力されなくなったら、半導体レーザの電流駆動を停止する保護回路を備えたことを特徴とする半導体レーザ駆動回路。

【請求項2】 請求項1に記載の保護回路は、制御信号により動作し、出力パルス幅が制御信号の周期よりも少し長く設定されたリトリガラブルマルチバイブレータ回路と、該出力パルスがなくなったときは半導体レーザの電流駆動を停止する停止回路とから構成されることを特徴とする半導体レーザ駆動回路。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】 本発明は半導体レーザ駆動回路に関し、更に詳細には半導体レーザの破壊や劣化を未然に防ぎ得る半導体レーザ駆動回路に関する。

10

20

20

【0002】

【従来の技術】 周知のように半導体レーザは図2に示すが如く温度によってその駆動電流-光出力特性が大きく変化するという特性を有している。また、個々の半導体レーザによってもこの特性はばらついている。このため、半導体レーザを変調駆動する際にはその変調動作の合間に周期的に制御信号が発行され、半導体レーザの光出力をモニタして駆動電流を変化させて光出力を一定に保つ制御動作を行なっていた。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 半導体レーザは過大出力に対して極めて弱く破壊や劣化に至るという特性も有している。このため、なんらかの障害（例えば断線、コネクタはずれ、コントローラーの暴走等）により制御信号が入力されないと、上述の制御動作が行なわれないため、そのまま駆動を続けると半導体レーザは劣化し、最悪の場合は破壊に至る恐れがあった。

【0004】

【課題を解決するための手段】 本発明の半導体レーザ駆動回路においては、上述の問題点を解決するために、制御信号が入力されなくなったら半導体レーザの電流駆動を停止する保護回路を備えている。

【0005】 保護回路は例えば、外部より周期的に入力される制御信号により動作し、出力パルス幅が制御信号の周期よりも少し長く設定されたリトリガラブルマルチバイブレータ回路と、該出力パルスがなくなったときは半導体レーザの電流駆動を停止する停止回路とからなるものである。

【0006】

【作用】 上述の構成を有する本発明によれば、制御信号

30

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

40

半導体レーザ1の電流駆動を停止する停止回路11とから構成される。

【0013】マルチ10は周知のTTLIC、例えば74LS123により構成され、停止回路11は図3に図示するような回路であり、入力信号にしたがって駆動回路9の電源をオン／オフするものである。

【0014】次に、図1乃至図4を参照して本実施例の半導体レーザ駆動回路の動作を説明する。

【0015】まず、正常時の動作を説明する。

【0016】外部より所定の周期で制御信号が入力される。制御動作は本来の変調動作の合間に行なわれるものであり、変調動作に影響のないタイミングで制御信号が入力される。

【0017】制御信号は本回路の制御回路5とマルチ10に入力されている。制御信号によりマルチ10は出力パルスを出力するが、その出力パルス幅T2は制御信号の周期T1より少し長いので、次の制御信号が入力されるタイミングではまだ出力パルスは出力されており、マルチ10はリトリガされ出力パルスは継続して出力される。正常時にはこの動作が連続して行なわれる所以、マルチ10の出力パルスは連続して出力される。このため、停止回路11は駆動回路9に電源を供給しつづけるので、半導体レーザ1の駆動は停止することはない。

【0018】制御信号は制御回路5にも入力されており、制御回路5は制御信号が入力されると、以下に述べる制御動作を行い、半導体レーザ1の光強度を制御する。

【0019】すなわち、変調回路8はPWM信号を生成する動作を停止し、常に半導体レーザが点灯するように変調信号を発生する。駆動回路9は、D/A変換回路7の出力するアナログ電圧に対応する電流で半導体レーザ1を駆動する。半導体レーザ1は、該電流に対応する光強度でレーザ光を発生する。

【0020】発生したレーザ光の一部はモニタダイオード2により受光され、発生する光電流は増幅回路3により電圧増幅されて光強度信号として出力され、該光強度信号は比較回路4により基準電圧との大小が比較判定される。

【0021】その比較結果は制御回路5に出力され、制御回路5は、光強度信号が基準電圧より小さいならばアップパルスを、大きいならばダウンパルスをアップダウンカウンタ6に出力する。

【0022】アップダウンカウンタ6は、アップパルス、ダウンパルスに従ってカウント値を更新する。アップダウンカウンタ6のカウント値は、D/A変換回路7によりアナログ電圧に変換され制御電圧として駆動回路9に出力される。

【0023】この結果、半導体レーザ1が発生するレーザ光の強度は比較回路4の基準電圧に相当する所定の光強度に制御される。

【0024】次に、コネクタはずれや断線等の障害が発生し、制御信号が入力されなくなった場合の動作を説明する。

【0025】図4に関係する信号のタイミングチャートを示したので、これを用いて説明する。

【0026】この場合においては、マルチ10は入力信号がなくなるので、最後に入力された制御信号より設定されたパルス幅T2で出力パルスはなくなる。このパルス幅T2は制御信号の周期T1より少し長いパルス幅であるので、出力パルスがなくなるのは最後に入力された制御信号の次の制御信号が入力されるはずのタイミングより少し遅れたタイミングである(図4のA点)。

【0027】出力パルスがなくなると停止回路11は駆動回路9の電源をオフするので、半導体レーザ1はその駆動を停止される。このタイミングは本来制御動作が行なわれるタイミング(図4のB点)より少し遅れるだけであり、停止するタイミングが遅いということはない。

【0028】このため、制御信号が入力されなくなつても半導体レーザ1は劣化したり破壊したりすることはない。

【0029】本発明は、以上詳述した実施例に限定されるものではなく、種々の変形、改良が可能である。たとえば、本実施例では停止回路を半導体レーザの駆動回路の電源をオン／オフする構成としたが、駆動回路自身に駆動を停止する機能を組み込んで停止回路の機能を併せてもたせてよい。また、リトリガラブルマルチバイブレータ回路はコンデンサと抵抗の充放電を利用したものに限らず、クロック回路とプリセット／リセット可能なカウンタ回路により構成してもよいのはもちろんである。

【0030】

【発明の効果】以上説明したことから明かなように、本発明の半導体レーザ駆動回路では、リトリガラブルマルチにより制御信号の入力を監視しており、制御信号が入力されなくなると半導体レーザの駆動を停止回路により停止するようにしたので、制御信号が入力されない場合に半導体レーザが劣化、破壊することがない半導体レーザ駆動回路を提供できる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の半導体レーザ駆動回路の構成を示す図である。

【図2】半導体レーザの特性を示す図である。

【図3】停止回路の構成を示す回路図である。

【図4】制御信号とリトリガラブルマルチバイブルエタの出力パルスの関係を示すタイミングチャートである。

【符号の説明】

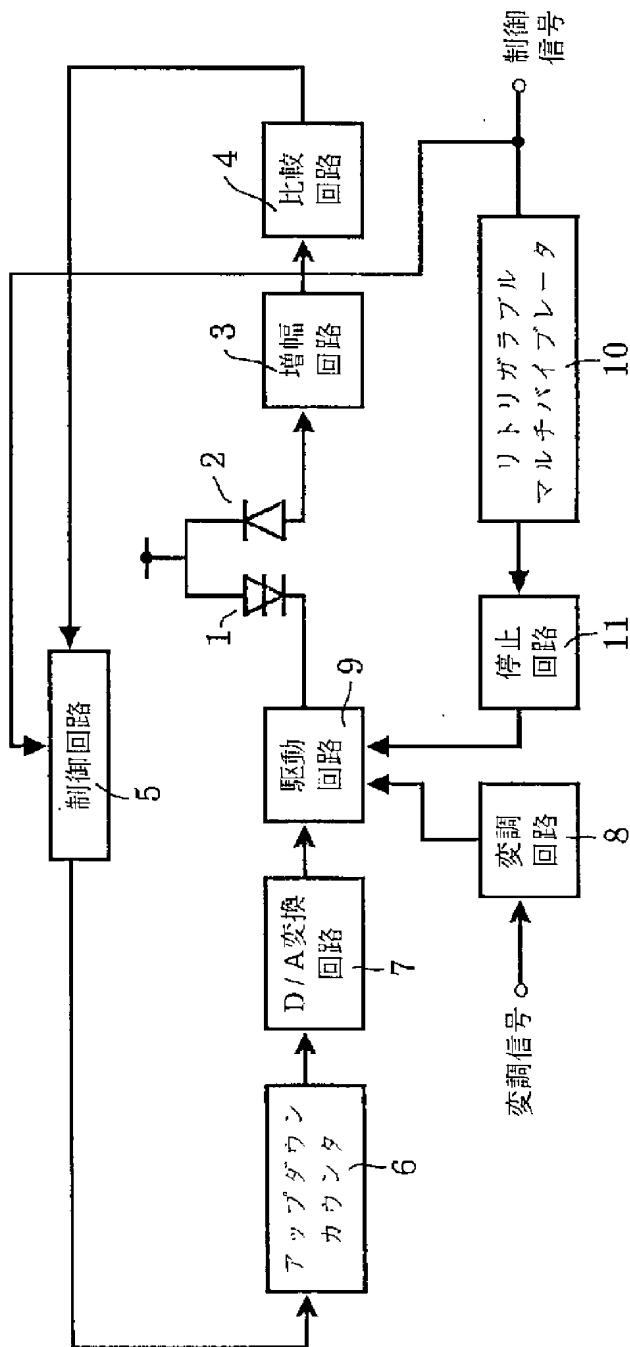
- 1 半導体レーザ
- 2 モニタダイオード
- 3 増幅回路
- 4 比較回路
- 5 制御回路

5

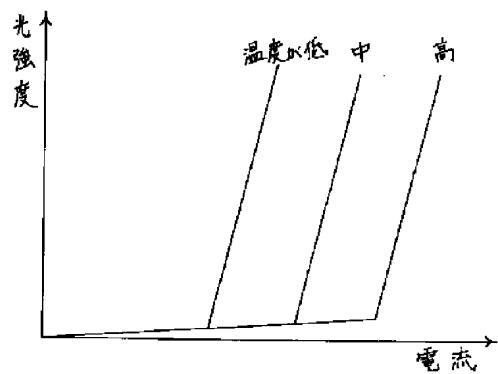
6

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 6 アップダウンカウンタ | 9 駆動回路 |
| 7 D/A変換回路 | 10 リトリガラブルマルチバイブレータ |
| 8 変調回路 | 11 停止回路 |

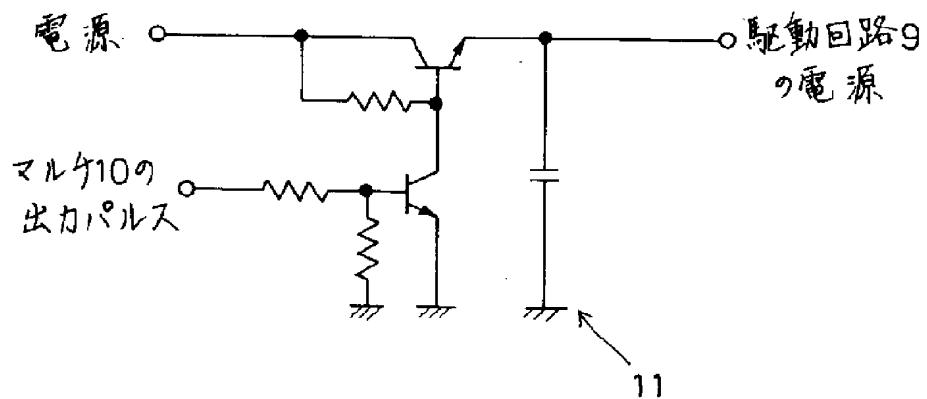
【図1】



【図2】



【図3】



【図4】

